

containers may not be mechanically restrained during the test.

(d) *Hydrostatic gauge pressure applied.*

(1) For metal intermediate bulk container design types, 31A, 31B, 31N: 65 kPa gauge pressure (9.4 psig).

(2) For metal intermediate bulk container design types 21A, 21B, 21N, 31A, 31B, 31N: 200 kPa (29 psig). For metal intermediate bulk container design types 31A, 31B and 31N, the tests in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section must be conducted consecutively.

(3) For metal intermediate bulk containers design types 21A, 21B, and 21N, for Packing Group I solids: 250 kPa (36 psig) gauge pressure.

(4) For rigid plastic intermediate bulk container design types 21H1 and 21H2 and composite intermediate bulk container design types 21HZ1 and 21HZ2: 75 kPa (11 psig).

(5) For rigid plastic intermediate bulk container design types 31H1 and 31H2 and composite intermediate bulk container design types 31HZ1 and 31HZ2: whichever is the greater of:

(i) The pressure determined by any one of the following methods:

(A) The gauge pressure (pressure in the intermediate bulk container above ambient atmospheric pressure) measured in the intermediate bulk container at 55 °C (131 °F) multiplied by a safety factor of 1.5. This pressure must be determined on the basis of the intermediate bulk container being filled and closed to no more than 98 percent capacity at 15 °C (60 °F);

(B) If absolute pressure (vapor pressure of the hazardous material plus atmospheric pressure) is used, 1.5 multiplied by the vapor pressure of the hazardous material at 55 °C (131 °F) minus 100 kPa (14.5 psi). If this method is chosen, the hydrostatic test pressure applied must be at least 100 kPa gauge pressure (14.5 psig); or

(C) If absolute pressure (vapor pressure of the hazardous material plus atmospheric pressure) is used, 1.75 multiplied by the vapor pressure of the hazardous material at 50 °C (122 °F) minus 100 kPa (14.5 psi). If this method is chosen, the hydrostatic test pressure applied must be at least 100 kPa gauge pressure (14.5 psig); or

(ii) Twice the greater of: (A) The static pressure of the hazardous mate-

rial on the bottom of the intermediate bulk container filled to 98 percent capacity; or

(B) The static pressure of water on the bottom of the intermediate bulk container filled to 98 percent capacity.

(e) *Criteria for passing the test(s).* (1) For metal intermediate bulk containers, subjected to the 65 kPa (9.4 psig) test pressure specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, there may be no leakage or permanent deformation that would make the intermediate bulk container unsafe for transportation.

(2) For metal intermediate bulk containers intended to contain liquids, when subjected to the 200 kPa (29 psig) and the 250 kPa (36 psig) test pressures specified in paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(3) of this section, respectively, there may be no leakage.

(3) For rigid plastic intermediate bulk container types 21H1, 21H2, 31H1, and 31H2, and composite intermediate bulk container types 21HZ1, 21HZ2, 31HZ1, and 31HZ2, there may be no leakage and no permanent deformation which renders the intermediate bulk container unsafe for transportation.

§ 178.815 Stacking test.

(a) *General.* The stacking test must be conducted for the qualification of all intermediate bulk container design types intended to be stacked.

(b) *Special preparation for the stacking test.* (1) All intermediate bulk containers except flexible intermediate bulk container design types must be loaded to their maximum permissible gross mass.

(2) The flexible intermediate bulk container must be filled to not less than 95 percent of its capacity and to its maximum net mass, with the load being evenly distributed.

(c) *Test method.* (1) All intermediate bulk containers must be placed on their base on level, hard ground and subjected to a uniformly distributed superimposed test load for a period of at least five minutes (see paragraph (d) of this section).

(2) Fiberboard, wooden, and composite intermediate bulk containers with outer packagings constructed of other than plastic materials must be subjected to the test for 24 hours.

(3) Rigid plastic intermediate bulk container types and composite intermediate bulk container types with plastic outer packagings (11HH1, 11HH2, 21HH1, 21HH2, 31HH1 and 31HH2) must be subjected to the test for 28 days at 40 °C (104 °F).

(4) For all intermediate bulk containers, the load must be applied by one of the following methods:

(i) One or more intermediate bulk containers of the same type loaded to their maximum permissible gross mass and stacked on the test intermediate bulk container; or

(ii) The calculated superimposed test load weight loaded on either a flat plate or a reproduction of the base of the intermediate bulk container, which is stacked on the test intermediate bulk container.

(d) *Calculation of superimposed test load.* For all intermediate bulk containers, the load to be placed on the intermediate bulk container must be 1.8 times the combined maximum permissible gross mass of the number of similar intermediate bulk containers that may be stacked on top of the intermediate bulk container during transportation.

(e) *Criteria for passing the test.* (1) For metal, rigid plastic, and composite intermediate bulk containers there may be no permanent deformation which renders the intermediate bulk container unsafe for transportation and no loss of contents.

(2) For fiberboard and wooden intermediate bulk containers there may be no loss of contents and no permanent deformation which renders the whole intermediate bulk container, including the base pallet, unsafe for transportation.

(3) For flexible intermediate bulk containers, there may be no deterioration which renders the intermediate bulk container unsafe for transportation and no loss of contents.

§ 178.816 Topple test.

(a) *General.* The topple test must be conducted for the qualification of all flexible intermediate bulk container design types.

(b) *Special preparation for the topple test.* The flexible intermediate bulk container must be filled to not less

than 95 percent of its capacity and to its maximum net mass, with the load being evenly distributed.

(c) *Test method.* A flexible intermediate bulk container must be toppled onto any part of its top upon a rigid, non-resilient, smooth, flat, and horizontal surface.

(d) *Topple height.* For all flexible intermediate bulk containers, the topple height is specified as follows:

(1) Packing Group I: 1.8 m (5.9 feet).

(2) Packing Group II: 1.2 m (3.9 feet).

(3) Packing Group III: 0.8 m (2.6 feet).

(e) *Criteria for passing the test.* For all flexible intermediate bulk containers, there may be no loss of contents. A slight discharge (e.g., from closures or stitch holes) upon impact is not considered to be a failure, provided no further leakage occurs.

§ 178.817 Righting test.

(a) *General.* The righting test must be conducted for the qualification of all flexible intermediate bulk containers designed to be lifted from the top or side.

(b) *Special preparation for the righting test.* The flexible intermediate bulk container must be filled to not less than 95 percent of its capacity and to its maximum net mass, with the load being evenly distributed.

(c) *Test method.* The flexible intermediate bulk container, lying on its side, must be lifted at a speed of at least 0.1 m/second (0.33 ft/s) to an upright position, clear of the floor, by one lifting device, or by two lifting devices when four are provided.

(d) *Criterion for passing the test.* For all flexible intermediate bulk containers, there may be no damage to the intermediate bulk container or its lifting devices which renders the intermediate bulk container unsafe for transportation or handling.

§ 178.818 Tear test.

(a) *General.* The tear test must be conducted for the qualification of all flexible intermediate bulk container design types.

(b) *Special preparation for the tear test.* The flexible intermediate bulk container must be filled to not less than 95